Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Excerpts from the Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings, January 5, 1894—February 24, 1897

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Having read Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings (also meetings of subordinate committees of the Board of Directors and meetings of the D&H Stockholders), *January 5, 1894—February 24, 1897* (meetings held in the Office of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, New York City), we have selected therefrom, for presentation here, data and facts that are important in the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and/or the Delaware and Hudson Railroad which are not generally known about the D&H or which are not reported in public or private documents or archives.

1. **D&H to Purchase Library of Edwin Young:** March 28, 1894 meeting: "The President [Robert M. Olyphant] stated that the Estate of the late Edwin Young desired to sell his personal law library to the company, and that he had consulted Mr. L. E. Carr our attorney at Albany, both of whom consider it eminently desirable for the Company to possess a library of its own, and that it would be well to acquire this one if it could be had for $1,200. Whereupon, on motion, duly seconded, the president was authorized to purchase it at not exceeding $1,200."

2. **Officers and Directors for 1894:** March 28, 1894 meeting: Robert M. Olyphant, President; Le Grand B. Cannon, James Roosevelt, Benjamin H. Bristow, R. Suydam Grant, William H. Tillinghast, James A. Roosevelt, Alexander E. Orr, Samuel Spencer, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Chauncey M. Depew, and Johnstone Livingston.

3. **Embezzlement by Cashier of Real Estate Department:** March 28, 1894 meeting: "The President informed the Board that an embezzlement of about $15,000 had recently been discovered in the accounts of the late J. B. Farrier, Cashier of the Real Estate Department, which spread over a number of years prior to his death, and that Counsel entertained great doubts as to the possibility of recovering anything either from his estate or from the sureties on his bond. Upon motion, duly seconded, the question of instituting proceedings either against his estate or sureties was referred to the president and Counsel with power."

4. **Officers and Directors for 1895:** May 8, 1894: Annual Meeting of D&H Stockholders: Elected for the ensuing year [1895] were the following members of the Board of Directors of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company: James Roosevelt (Vice President), Robert M. Olyphant (President), William H. Tillinghast, Alfred van Santvoord, James A. Roosevelt, Alexander E. Orr, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Chauncey M. Depew, John A. Stewart, James W. Alexander, James R. Taylor, Benjamin Brewster, and Horace G. Young (Second Vice President). Railroad Committee: Chauncey M. Depew, James Roosevelt, James R. Taylor, William H. Tillinghast, and Horace G. Young.

5. **Cash Payments to Families of D&H Employees Killed in Accident at Esperance:** August 29, 1894 meeting: "Upon motion, duly seconded, $1,500 was appropriated from the fund placed by the stockholders at the disposal of the managers for such purposes: $1,000 to be paid the family of H. Palmer of Oneonta, NY, the fireman killed at Esperance on the Albany and Susquehanna

railroad, July 19th, 1894, while in the discharge of his duty; and $500 to the family of Truman Austin, the engineer killed in the same accident."

6. **Oneonta YMCA:** January 29, 1895 meeting: "The President stated that the young Men's Christian Association of Oneonta, New York, which includes in its membership 400 of our employees, is about to raise funds for the erection of its own building upon a plot of ground valued at $5,000, which has been provided by Mr. George I. Wilbur of that place, one of our largest stockholders. / On motion, duly seconded, a contribution of $2,500 from the Company [the D&H], toward the erection of such a building, was authorized from the fund provided by the stock holders for such purposes."

7. **Request for Coal from Carbondale Emergency Hospital:** February 27, 1895 meeting: "A request from the Carbondale Emergency Hospital for a car of coal was presented and upon motion, duly seconded, and granted, the value thereof to be charged against the fund provided by the Stockholders for such purposes."

8. **D&H Funds Appropriated to Repair Damages to Welsh Congregational Church**: March 27, 1895 meeting**:** The President presented an appeal from the Providence Welsh Congregational Church of Scranton, Penn'a., for aid in repairing its building which had been damaged by the sinking of the surface of one of our mines upon which it is located, and said that Mr. Vandling recommended giving $500, at which amount he estimated the cost of repairs. Upon motion, duly seconded, that amount was appropriated for the purpose, the same to be charged to the fund provided by the Stockholders for such purposes."

9. **Enlarging the Oneonta Shops:** October 30, 1895 meeting: "The president stated that, upon a recent trip of inspection over the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, in company with three of the managers, their attention had been particularly called to the inadequacy of the accommodations in the Oneonta shops for the work that is required to be done there, and that he had authorized an expenditure of ten thousand dollars in enlarging them, and asked the Board to approve his action, which upon motion, duly seconded, was done."

10. **Double-Track a Portion of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad:** November 27, 1895 meeting: "The President stated that in view of the largely increased transportation over the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, it was necessary to double-track a part of the remining single-track portion of the road viz: from Unadilla to Wells Bridge, 4.45 miles, and from East Worcester to Worcester 4.73 miles. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the Railroad Committee [Messrs. James Roosevelt, James R. Taylor, William H. Tillinghast, and Horace G. Young]."

December 5, 1895 meeting of the Railroad Committee: "After full consideration of the matter, the committee unanimously approved of the contemplated double tracking [from Unadilla to Wells Bridge and from East Worcester to Worcester, 9.18 miles] and ordered that contracts therefor should be entered into without delay." At the same Railroad Committee meeting, the Railroad Committee adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that the Committee is impressed with the necessity of double-tracking the remaining 17 miles of single track, so making the road double-track throughout its entire length, and would recommend this policy to the Board."

December 26, 1895 meeting of the Board of Directors: "Upon motion, duly seconded, the recommendation of the Railroad Committee that the remaining seventeen miles of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad should be double-tracked, was approved and adopted."

11. **Construction of One Thousand Coal Cars:** December 24, 1895 meeting: "The President read a letter from Mr. E. B. Thomas, President of the Erie Railroad, suggesting that an agreement should be made between the two companies for the construction of one thousand coal cars, to be used exclusively in the service of this Company, and calling attention to the satisfactory results attained through a similar contract entered into in 1888, which had recently been fulfilled. Upon motion, duly seconded, this matter was referred to the Railroad Committee with power."

Railroad Committee meeting, January 3, 1896 meeting: "Upon motion, duly seconded, the matter of the completed agreement [1,000 coal cars] was placed in the hands of the President, Vice-President and Counsel of the Erie Railroad and Company, with power to make such an arrangement as, in their judgment would be mutually advantageous."

12. **D&H Annual Report for 1895:** January 29, 1896 meting: "The President presented the text of the Annual Report [for 1895] to the stockholders, as follows, which upon motion, duly seconded, was adopted as the Annual Report of the Managers and ordered spread on the minutes, printed and distributed to the Stockholders."

13. **Embezzlement of $30,000 by D&H General Freight Agent:** March 25, 1896 meeting: "The President informed the Board that Mr. James Calhoun, late General Freight Agent of the Company, had embezzled abut thirty thousand dollars, whereupon, on motion, duly seconded, the matter was reffered [sic] to the officers of the Company for such action as, in their judgment, the circumstances of the case require."

14. **D&H Will Lend Money to Rutland Railroad Company:** April 9, 1896 meeting: "The President stated that the Rutland Railroad Company had received notice from the Receivers of the Central Vermont Railroad Company that on and after March they refused to pay the rental of the Rutland Railroad, provided for in their lease of that Company's road, in consequence of which the Rutland Railroad Company would be without funds to meet its obligations and that, owing to the large amount of Rutland stock held by this Company, it would become necessary to advance that Company, from time to time, funds to protect our interests. Whereupon, on motion, duly seconded, the President was authorized to loan the Rutland Railroad Company, from time to time, such sums of money as its business requires."

15. **Six Thousand Dollars Made Available to the Managers for Requests for Aid:** Stockholders Annual Meeting, May 12, 1896: "On motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That a sum not exceeding six thousand dollars ($6,000) for the current year be placed at the disposal of the Managers, to be expended by them, in their discretion, in making subscriptions to such objects, and meeting such applications for aid as may be presented to the Board, and that the objects for which the same may have been expended be reported at the next annual stock-holders' meeting."

16. **Quarterly Dividend on Capital Stock:** May 27, 1896 Meeting: "Resolved that the quarterly dividend of one and three quarters (1 3/4) per cent on the capital stock of the Company heretofore declared, be paid at the office of the Company in this city, on and after Monday, June 15th, 1896, and that the transfer books be closed from the close of business today until the morning of Tuesday, June 16th."

17. **Relief for Sufferers of Calamity at Twin Shaft Colliery:** July 29, 1896 Meeting: "The President presented an appeal from a Committee appointed for the relief of the sufferers from the calamity at the Twin Shaft Colliery of Pittston, PA. On motion, duly seconded, the president was authorized to give $500 to this object, the same to be charged to the funds set apart by the stockholders for such purposes."

18. **Permission to Transport Explosives:** Railroad Committee Meeting (Messrs. J. Roosevelt, Taylor, Tillinghast, Young, and the President): November 30, 1896: "Mr. Young said that we are the only Company that does not permit the transportation of explosives over its lines, and that he would like permission to do so. Upon motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board that such consent be given."

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, December 30, 1896: "The minutes of the meetings of November 25th and December 9th, and those of the meetings of the Railroad Committee November 25th and 30th, were read and approved, and the recommendation of the Railroad Committee with regard to the transportation of explosives was adopted."

19. **Annual Report for 1896:** January 27, 1897 meeting: "The President [R. M. Olyphant] presented the text of the annual report [for 1896], which upon motion, duly seconded, was adopted in the following form as the annual report of the Managers and ordered spread on the minutes, printed and distributed to the stockholders." From that annual report, we learn that "The additions to our equipment during the year were 8 locomotives, 100 box cars, 2 passenger cars Gravity R. R., 2 combination cars, 1 caboose car. Ten thousand and thirty-one tons of steel rail were paid for during the year."

20. **Missions to People of Foreign Tongue:** February 24, 1897 meeting: "The President presented an appeal from the Executive Committee on "Missions to People of Foreign Tongue" in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, Penna., for aid in establishing educational agencies among the ignorant and depraved miners in our employ of foreign origin, which upon motion, duly seconded, was referred to the President, with power."

(To Be Continued)

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